

**RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE**  
**Department of Natural Resources**  
**Room 1040**  
**March 11, 2003**

Minutes

Member Present:

HARJA, John - GOPB/DNR  
KAPPE, Karl - DFFSL  
WILCOX, Richard - SITLA  
SCHLOTTHAUER, Bill - DWRi  
SOWARDS, Glade - Utah Energy Office  
CANNING, Michael - DWR  
MORTENSEN, Duane - DEQ/DERR  
KEENE, Mike - State Science Advisor  
GEORGESON, Michael - DEQ – Drinking Water  
PITKIN, Jay - DEQ - Water Quality  
DANIELS, Ron – DOGM

Others Present:

LANDURETH, Brenda - DNR/ADMIN

**I. Approval of Minutes**

Bill Schlotthauer called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 a.m. Jay Pitkin made a motion to approve the February 11, 2003 minutes. Michael Georgeson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**II. Discussion Items**

John Harja stated that the Resource Development Coordinating Committee (RDCC) was partially revamped in the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget bill that was passed. The bill consisted of a few changes to state planning coordinator duties, old information was deleted and some financial items were changed. Earlier in the meeting, Mike Keene, State Science Advisor, reported that the bill restated membership and made some technical and other clarifications. The membership should increase in numbers due to this change and we might need to have a larger room for the meeting.

The licensing bureau for the nuclear industry has decided that airplanes and the storage of hazardous waste are not compatible. A 220-page decision was released that reported that the threat to the site was credible from airplane crashes. This decision can be challenged or they can try to redesign the site to withstand crashes. They have 20 days to determine their course of action (appeals or to redesign the site).

John Harja conducted elections for the new chairperson for the committee. Glade Sowards was nominated and unanimously elected by the council. Ron Daniels nominated Kimm Harty for the vice-chairperson position. The vice-chairperson will be elected at the next meeting.

John Harja announced that the Department of Natural Resources and the Bureau of Land will review their MOU this spring.

Glade Sowards thanked Bill Schlotthauer for his service for RDCC. Bill Schlotthauer has been a member of RDCC for 20 years. He has been the chairperson for two years. The council indicated their appreciation for his service.

### **III. Report from Agencies on Any Anticipated Projects**

Bill Schlotthauer requested an update on any legislative items in addition to agency reports.

Michael Canning, Division of Wildlife Resources reported that the resolution on managing wolves was passed, which asked the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to delist the wolf and to allow the state to manage the wolf population and to develop a wolf management plan. A wolf check off was added to the state income tax form to help pay for depredation.

Karl Kappe, Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands reported that the legislature funded the fire fighting expenses from last summer. This fire season should be another

Glade Sowards reported that the legislature officially merged the two energy offices (Utah Code) into the Utah Energy Office.

Ron Daniels, Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (DOGM), announced that the division has been engaged in a major rulemaking effort to change bonding requirements for oil and gas drilling projects. Final public comments on this effort are due by April 1, 2003. The board will make a decision on whether to approve and adopt these new rules.

S.B. 65 bill increased the requirements for bonding in the minerals program was sponsored by Senator Dimitri was passed by the legislature. Another bill passed during the session placed DOGM on the task force to examine the sand and gravel industry in the state to determine if extra requirements are required for reclamation and restoration. This task force will also include members of the industry, the Mining Association and Utah General Contractors. A report is due to the legislature by November 2003 Interim Committee meeting.

Bill Schlotthauer announced that the Division of Water Rights (DWRi) is continuing work on their website. The Interim Committee is setting up a task force in April to discuss any changes to laws to provide tools for water distribution, particularly ground water. Jerry Olds, DWRi, division director gave a presentation to the Interim Committee, to discuss where things are headed and to identify the strengths and weaknesses of current statutes. The task force will take testimony and will develop draft legislation that will provide clarification to address these issues.

The division has announced that Pahvant Valley is entirely closed since withdrawal are now exceeding the groundwater recharge. DWRi conducted a public meeting on Pahvant Valley and comments are due on April 15, 2003 regarding closure and water distribution issues,

and to appoint a commissioner. Jerry Olds will also make a presentation at the Water Users Workshop next week in St. George, Utah. The legislative session will clarify this water distribution issue.

DWRi has recently received some inquiries from Cache County to do an advanced groundwater study to develop a model to serve as a planning and management tool. Utah Geologic Survey and the DWRi will be working together on this.

#### **IV. Review of Proposed Items as Listed on the Project Management Library**

John Harja mentioned that there is a consistency review Proposed Plan Amendment and an associated Environmental Assessment for the Cedar Beaver Garfield Antimony RMP – Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) (#2631) on the Project Management System involves a small sale of land. RDCC takes consistency reviews seriously because they provide an opportunity for the governor to make definitive statements to the Bureau of Land Management.

Bill Schlotthauer mentioned that the Wild and Scenic River Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is up for review. The MOU has not changed, except for one definitive statement “that no water rights are requested, permitted or required by the planning process.” Federal agencies are inconsistency regarding when protection kicks in (either eligibility or suitability phase). Suitability is the recommendation to Congress. Dixie, Fish Lake and the Manti La Sal may or may not complete due to budget constraints. The state’s view is that there should not be any water rights protections, should apply at a minimal extent at the appropriate time. The appropriate time is when the plan is completed and the Record of Decision is signed then everyone would have an opportunity to provide input in the process. RDCC members support process completion.

Please review Project Management System (#2560) The Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants: 90-Day Finding on a Petition to List the Western Sage Grouse Project Management System We have the northern and the Gunnison sage grouse in Utah.

#### **III. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m. The next meeting will be held on April 8, 2003, at 9:00 a.m., at the Department of Natural Resources, in room 314.